

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to the claims set forth in the Office Action of May 5, 2004 are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Status of the claims

Claims 1-7 are pending.

Claims 1-7 stand rejected.

Claims 1-7 have been amended.

No new matter has been added as a result of the amendments to the claims.

Priority

The Examiner has acknowledged Applicant's claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) based on Chinese application 98122785.6 and PCT application PCT/CN99/00166. Applicant respectfully points out to the Examiner that Applicant's claim for foreign priority was correct. The Chinese application's filing date, although indicated as 04.12.1998 on PCT/CN99/00166 (copy enclosed), is actually December 4, 1998, rather than April 12, 1998 as the Examiner has suggested. Thus, Applicant's claim for foreign priority should be perfected.

Specification

The Examiner has objected to the specification because it is missing line numbers. Applicant has canceled the original specification to be replaced by the enclosed substituted specification. The substituted specification is identical to the translation of the specification which entered the national phase on February 20, 2001 with the exception that paragraph numbers are included in front of each paragraph, and that the title is shown to match the title of the PCT application. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections are respectfully requested.

Claim objections

The Examiner has objected to claim 1 as consisting of more than one sentence. Applicant has amended claim 1 to consist of one sentence. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections are respectfully requested.

Claim rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended the claims to be in better form for U.S. practice. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Claim rejections 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0091754 to Jang et al. (“the Jang reference”).

The current application is entitled to a foreign priority date of December 4, 1998 which precedes the 102(e) date of the Jang reference. The Jang reference thus cannot be cited against the current application. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Claim rejections 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over the Jang reference in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,070,154 to Travor (“the Travor reference”).

The Examiner has rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over the Jang reference in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,178,455 to Schutte (“the Schutte reference”).

The current application is entitled to a foreign priority date of December 4, 1998 which precedes the 102(e) date of the Jang reference. The Jang reference thus cannot be cited against

the current application. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Prompt and favorable action is respectfully requested. Applicant has included a check in payment of the extension fee. Applicant does not believe that any additional fee is required in connection with the submission of this document. However, should any additional fee be required, or if any overpayment has been made, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, or credit or any overpayments made, to Deposit Account 02-4377.

Respectfully submitted,

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